

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

RE: TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner's cooperation in conducting a telephone interview on September 27, 2006, is respectfully acknowledged. In the telephone interview, potential amendments to the claims were discussed with respect to USP 5,887,216. Although no specific agreement was reached as to the allowability of the claims, the Examiner agreed that amendments to the claims along the lines set forth hereinabove would clarify the structure of the present invention with respect to USP 5,887,213

RE: THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 14 has been amended to positively recite an administrating apparatus, as previously recited in claims 20 and 22, and to clarify that the restoration work information is provided to the relaying server by the administrating apparatus through the second firewall server and the Internet.

In addition, independent claims 14, 25 and 28 have been amended to clarify that the relaying server enables the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

Still further, the claims have been amended to avoid unnecessarily limiting the present invention to an "image forming" apparatus. The amended claims now refer more generally to an "administrated" apparatus.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

RE: THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 14-19, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,887,216 (newly cited "Motoyama"), and claims 20, 22 and 24-30 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Motoyama with one or both of USP 6,618,162 (previously cited "Wiklof et al") and 2005/0280864 (previously cited "Lodwick"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the administrated apparatus of the present invention corresponds to one of the devices (24, 28, 32) located in the network 16 shown in Fig. 1 of Motoyama, and the Examiner asserts that the relay server of claim 14 corresponds to one of the workstations (e.g., 56, 62) in network 52 in Fig. 1 of Motoyama.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, however, the apparatus administrating system comprises: (i) an administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the first local network, (ii) an administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside the first and second local networks and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet.

It is respectfully submitted that Motoyama clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest a system including all three of (i) an administrated apparatus (in a first local network), (ii) an administrating apparatus (in a second local network), and (iii) a relaying server (outside the first and second local networks), as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 14.

More specifically, as recognized by the Examiner, Motoyama discloses business machines 24, 28, 32 located in the network 16 and connected to the Internet. And as also recognized by the Examiner, Motoyama discloses workstations 56, 62, 68 and 74 in a network 52 and connected to the internet. According to Motoyama,

moreover, communication between a machine and a computer for monitoring the machine may be performed using email via the Internet or by a direct communication line.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Motoyama does not disclose, teach or suggest a relay server provided outside both of the local networks 16 and 52 (i.e., outside the firewalls 14 and 50), and it is respectfully submitted that Motoyama clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest performing indirect communication between an administrating apparatus and an administrated apparatus via the Internet using a relay server, as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 14.

In any event, moreover, it is respectfully pointed out that Lodwick merely discloses the communication of a print job over a network, and does not disclose, teach or suggest a relay server to which trouble type information is transmitted, and from which restoration work information may be obtained, by an administrated apparatus.

Independent claims 25 and 28, moreover, recite an administrated apparatus and an administrating apparatus for an apparatus administration system that includes: (i) the administrated apparatus located in a first local network and connected to the Internet through a first firewall server of the

first local network, (ii) the administrating apparatus located in a second local network and connected to the Internet through a second firewall server of the second local network, and (iii) a relaying server located outside of the first and second firewall servers and connected to the Internet for enabling the administrated apparatus and the administrating apparatus to indirectly communicate with each other via the Internet. And for the same reasons set forth hereinabove with respect to amended independent claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that the cited references do not disclose, teach or suggest the structure of the present invention as recited in independent claims 25 and 28.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 14, 25 and 28, as well as claims 15-24, 26-27 and 29-30 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguish over Motoyama and Lodwick and Wiklof, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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